

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EUR-12 ISO-00 BIB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-07 IO-13 SSM-03 /101 W

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R 011355Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6630

INFO AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USMISSION SINAI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, EG, LY, UR, KU

SUBJECT: REACTION TO PRAVDA ARTICLE LASHES SOVIETS; LIBYAN EVENTS

REF: MOSCOW 13672

1. AUGUST 30 PRAVDA ARTICLE (REFTEL) PROMPTED VIOLENT REACTION FROM AKHBAR SEPTEMBER 1. CHAIRMAN MUSA SABRI DESCRIBED STATEMENT "RELEASED BY SOVIET UNION" AS LUDICROUS. "LIBYAN LUNATIC," WHO ONCE LABELED SOVIET UNION IMPERIALIST AND FASCIST, NOW CONSIDERS "PROGRESSIVE" BY MOSCOW BY REASON OF MILLIONS IN ARMS PURCHASES. STATEMENT MEANS THAT "SOVIET UNION SUPPORTS ASSASSINATION OF EGYPTIAN WOMEN AND CHILDREN" THROUGH QADHAFI'S
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CONSPIRACIES. KREMLIN FAVORS QADHAFI'S CRIMES AS REVENGE FOR

SADAT'S DECISION TO EXPEL SOVIETS AND USSR HAS CHANGED FROM "SUPER POWER TO ACCOMPLICE OF A LUNATIC." SABRI CLAIMED PRAVDA ARTICLE IS SOVIET CONFIRMATION THAT QADHAFI ISOLATED IN ARAB WORLD. AFTER THEIR FAILURES IN EGYPT AND IRAQ, AFTER ASSISTING IN CONSPIRACY TO LIQUIDATE PALESTINIAN EXISTENCE IN LEBANON AND AFTER EXPOSURE OF COMPLICITY OF ABORTIVE INVASION IN SUDAN, SOVIETS NOW GAMBLING ON ALLIANCE WITH ISOLATED AND RASH PERSON "WHO ALREADY STANDS ON BRINK OF ABYSS...WHOSE HEAD IS BEING DEMANDED" ALL OVER LIBYA.

2. AKHBAR EDITOR MUHAMMED ZAYN, UNDER BORROWED TITLE "FOR HANDFUL OF DOLLARS" PROCLAIMED THAT GREED HAS LED SOVIETS TO SWALLOW PAST INSULTS FROM QADHAFI AND "DOLLARS AND NOT PRINCIPLES NOW SHAPE SOVIET UNION RELATIONS WITH SMALL COUNTRIES OF THE WORLD."

3. GUMHURIYYA REPORTS THAT QADHAFI HAS CONFIRMED THAT COUP WAS ATTEMPTED IN LIBYA AUGUST 19 WHILE QADHAFI IN COLOMBO.

4. FIFTH HIJACKING SUSPECT ARRESTED. PRESS REPORTS ARREST OF MUHAMMAD TIRKAWY, ACCUSED HIJACKING ACCOMPLICE WHO HAD REPORTEDLY FLED TO KUWAIT DAY BEFORE ACTUAL ATTEMPT. GUMHURIYYA'S STORY SAID THAT EGYPTIAN SECURITY "MANAGED TO ARREST HIM BY THEIR OWN MEANS," IMPLYING THAT EGYPTIANS NABBED TIRKAWY SURREPTITIOUSLY IN KUWAIT, DESPITE GOE ANNOUNCEMENT THAT IT SEEKING EXTRADITION.

5. PRESS ALSO REPORTS LIBYAN ARREST OF EGYPTIAN CIVIL AVIATION ENGINEER MUHAMMAD MURAD AL-KHULI AS EGYPTIAN SPY. AL-KHULI HAS REPORTEDLY BEEN IN LIBYA FOR SEVEN YEARS AND PRESS PRAISED HIS CONTRIBUTIONS TO DEVELOPMENT OF LIBYAN AVIATION. EGYPTIAN GENERAL AUTHORITY FOR AVIATION TRAINING DENOUNCED THE ARREST AND CALLED ON ARAB LAWYERS FEDERATION TO PREPARE DEFENSE.

6. LIBYAN ANGLE IN KUWAITI SITUATION. RED BANNERS IN AKHBAR AND GUMHURIYYA REJOICED IN KUWAITI INFORMATION MINISTRY'S BAN ON LIBYAN ADVERTISEMENTS IN KUWAITI NEWSPAPERS ON OCCASION OF LIBYAN NATIONAL DAY (SEPTTEL).

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7. INSCRUTABLE ORIENT CATEGORY: DESPITE SEVERE TENSION, GOE DID NOT FAIL TO OBSERVE SEPTEMBER 1 AS NATIONAL HOLIDAY IN FRAMEWORK OF MORIBUND EGYPTIAN-LIBYAN-SYRIAN CONFEDERATION. MOST GOVERNMENT OFFICES ARE CLOSED AND LIBYAN RELATIONS OFFICE, IN ANYTHING BUT LOW PROFILE, IS FESTIVELY BEDECKED WITH NATIONAL DAY DECORATIONS.

8. COMMENT: PRESS CONTINUES TO SOUND THEME OF QADHAFI'S

PRECARIOUS INTERNAL SITUATION AND LIKELIHOOD OF DOOM AT HANDS OF
HIS OWN PEOPLE.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, FOREIGN RELATIONS, ARMS SALES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976CAIRO11763
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760332-0391
From: CAIRO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t197609103/aaaadkin.tel
Line Count: 118
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 MOSCOW 13672
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12 MAY 2004 by ElyME>; APPROVED <08 SEP 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REACTION TO PRAVDA ARTICLE LASHES SOVIETS; LIBYAN EVENTS
TAGS: PINS, EG, LY, UR, KU
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006